

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 IO-13 AID-20 /142 W

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R 051325Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5920

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP EAID NG FR PFOR

SUBJECT: FRANCO-NIGERIEN RELATIONS

1. PRESIDENT AND MADAME DIORI LEFT NIAMEY AFTERNOON JULY 4 FOR PARIS, ON SAME FLIGHT WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET BOIGNY, FOR WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS "PRIVATE VISIT" OF WEEK'S LENGTH. ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY OF THIS TRIP HAS BEEN BRUITED ABOUT FEW DAYS EARLIER (WHEN I ASKED DIORI ON JULY 1, FOR EXAMPLE, IF HE EXPECTED TO BE IN NIAMEY DURING PERIOD JULY 7-11 IN CASE MAURY WILLIAMS AND DON BROWN SHOULD VISIT AREA, HE SAID HE DOUBTED IT), FRENCH AMBASSADOR GASCHIGNARD, WHO HAD TO GO ALONG, WAS NOTIFIED OF DEFINITE DEPARTURE SCANT 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

2. ONLY TWO GENERAL TOPIC GASCHIGNARD AWARE DIORI WISHED TAKE UP WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT RELATE TO: A) REFORM OF BCEAO SYSTEM, AND, B) RENEGOTIATION OF FRANCO-NIGERIEN COOPERATION ACCORDS.

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3. ON BCEAO, GASCHIGNARD SAID DIORI WOULD BE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF OTHER UMOA MEMBER COUNTRIES AND WOULD SEEK PIN DOWN BIT MORE PRE-

CISELY CHANGES GON AND OTHERS DESIRE IN DIRECTION OF: 1) INCREASED "AFRICANIZATION" OF BCEAO; AND 2) CONSTITUTION REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND TO MAKE BETTER USE OF EXCESSIVE BCEAO RESERVES. THESE ARE SUBJECTS, AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME IN SERIES OF BCEAO MEETINGS WHICH BEGAN IN DECEMBER 1972 AT NIAMEY.

4. RE FRANCO/NIGERIEN ACCORDS, GASCHIGNARD TOLD ME CONFIDENTIALLY THAT ONLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE INVOLVED WAS GON DESIRE RECEIVE FROM GOF ADVANCE COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC AMOUNTS OF FUTURE AID. FOR EXAMPLE, GON WISHES GOV PLEDGE CONTINUANCE OF ANNUAL ONE BILLION CFAF CONTRIBUTION TO NIGER'S INVESTMENT FUND JUSTIFIED AS ADVANCE ON POTENTIAL SOMAIR URANIUM EARNINGS. ORIGINAL 4-YEAR FRENCH COMMITMENT THIS AID ENDED WITH 1972-73 EXERCISE. THEREAFTER FRENCH CONTRIBUTION WAS TO AMOUNT TO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ONE BILLION CFAF AND NIGER'S NET EARNINGS FROM MINE. SINCE THERE HAVE HOWEVER BEEN NO EARNINGS, GOF AGREED "EXCEPTIONALLY" TO PAY NIGER FIFTH TRANCHE OF ONE BILLION CFAF, AND HAS ALREADY DONE SO. GON NEVERTHELESS WANTS THIS SUBSIDY CONTINUED INDEFINITELY. GOF IS UNWILLING GIVE SUCH A FLAT ASSURANCE.

5. GASCHIGNARD DESCRIBED PACE AND ATMOSPHERE OF FRANCO-NIGERIEN ACCORD REVISION DISCUSSIONS AS GENERALLY LEISURELY AND RELAXED. SINCE SUBJECT HAS BEEN UNDER PERIODIC EXAMINATION SINCE JULY 1972, HOWEVER, WITH TWO SETS OF PROPOSALS AND COUNTERPROPOSALS HAVING BEEN EXCHANGED IN INTERVAL, HE STATED GOF WAS ANXIOUS MOVE AHEAD, NOW DECKS HAD BEEN CLEARED OF FAR MORE DIFFICULT MAURITANIAN AND MALAGASY REVISION NEGOTIATIONS. GOF DID NOT WISH INCUR ONUS OF BEING ACCUSED OF "DRAGGING ITS HEELS." PART OF REASON FOR SLOW PACE WAS ALSO DUE TO CHANGEOVER FROM BILLECOCQ TO DENIAU AS COOPERATION MINISTERS.

6. GASCHIGNARD SAID AREA OF FUTURE FRANCO-NIGERIEN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WOULD BE ADEQUATELY COVERED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC FRAMEWORK FOR RENEWAL OF YAOUNDE CONVENTION.
MCCLELLAND

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